

The Shooting of Governor George Wallace: Why?

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"Hunt [E. Howard Hunt] testified that he was called into Colson's office on the morning of May 16, 1972, one day after the shooting, and was ordered to fly to Milwaukee, break into Arthur Bremer's apartment, and look for evidence."

"We [the CIA] still adhere to the request that they [the FBI] confine themselves to the personalities already arrested or directly under suspicion, and that they desist from expanding this investigation into other areas which may well, eventually, run afoul of our own operations."/1/

— Richard Helms, former Director CIA

The full truth about the attempted assassination of Governor George Corley Wallace has not been properly exposed. The Wallace shooting provides only a small glimpse of how the power structure in this country rigs elections, manipulates candidates, and violates the rights of citizens.

Crimes do not remain unsolved for long, once the facts have been brought to light. Among the sources from which I have gathered information are newspaper accounts, the court file and transcripts, from interviews with material witnesses, from ballistics and medical reports, correspondence with other researchers who are familiar with aspects of the case, and by discreet investigation.

It is my sincere hope that this document will serve to awaken interest in this case, and in others. The people of the United States must become sufficiently aroused in order that they may apply the necessary pressures on Congress. Only then will we be in a position to regain our lost freedoms, to restore our democracy.

Other Conspirators

According to Capt. Eldred C. Dothard, a close associate of Governor Wallace, on May 6, 1972, two would-be assassins with guns were chased from a Wallace rally in Baltimore, Md. One escaped. The other was arrested and summarily released. No record of the arrest can be found.

Were they one of many secret teams, operating simultaneously? I have to date been unable to identify these two unknown individuals. I urge anyone with pertinent information to contact me as soon as possible.

How Many Bullets? — How Many Gunmen?

On May 15, 1972, at 4:15 p.m., an assailant stepped out from a crowded parking lot rally in Laurel, Md., and fired a gun (snub-nosed, 38-caliber, five shot revolver) at Governor Wallace, thus altering the outcome of the 1972 presidential election.

But was A. H. Bremer, arrested at the scene and accused of the crime, the "lone gunman" when George Wallace was shot?

"Life" magazine, May 26, 1972, page 4: "... He fired a revolver point blank at Wallace four or five times and the Governor crumpled to the ground.

"Life" magazine, Dec. 29, 1972, page 60: "... In the remarkable sequence by CBS cameraman Laurens Pierce, puffs of gunsmoke appear as Bremer fires a third and fourth time."

The Pierce film is interesting, if only for what it doesn't show. Analyzed carefully, four loud reports can be heard and four puffs of smoke can be discerned. "Life" magazine evidently found it a difficult matter to reconcile the conflicting ballistics reports with what this 'remarkable' film appears to depict at first glance; namely, that four shots in rapid succession were fired, to which a majority of the witnesses agreed.

But other witnesses and the local police (Prince George's County, who arrested the suspect) reported that the gun had been fired four or five times.

The Secret Service had immediately taken custody of the gun at the scene. It had been fired five times on May 15, the Justice Department said.

Other witnesses, however, gave conflicting reports on the number of shots. Some said that four shots were fired, others heard five. According to eyewitness accounts, the assailant thrust his arm between two people and fired at close range at Wallace, one shot, a pause, two more, then more shots.

Security agents reacted instantly, hitting the assailant's gun arm and subduing him while shots, presumably from his five shot revolver, continued popping, according to witnesses, like bursting balloons.

Wallace was shot five times. He was wounded in the right shoulder, the right arm, the stomach, the left shoulder blade and the spine.

Out of Wallace's five wounds, only two bullets were located. During his first operation, a bullet was removed that had perforated Wallace's stomach, torn ligaments of the small intestines, and brushed the large intestine. Four other wounds were treated, one in the right forearm, one in the upper right arm, one in the right shoulder and one in the left shoulder blade.

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The second operation was performed at Holy Cross Hospital on June 18, 1972, for the removal of the bullet in his back.

Three other victims were wounded.

Nicholas Zorvas, a 37-year-old Secret Service agent who was standing to Wallace's rear, suffered a serious wound in the neck requiring surgery. Shortly after the shooting, Zorvas was transferred to the Atlanta field office of the Secret Service.

Captain Eldred C. Dothard, a 41-year-old officer in the Alabama State Police and Wallace's personal bodyguard, was wounded in the abdomen.

Mrs. Dora Thompson of Maryland, a 34-year-old housewife and campaign worker for Wallace, was wounded in the leg.

Four persons suffered a total of at least eight wounds, even though law enforcement agencies claimed that none of their personnel fired back.

At the "trial" of Arthur Herman Bremer, accused of shooting Governor Wallace, his court-appointed defense attorney, Mr. Benjamin Lipsitz of Baltimore, raised doubts as to whether A. H. Bremer fired the shots on May 15, 1972. Lipsitz told the jury that the FBI could not prove that the bullets came from his client's gun. Lipsitz even got FBI witnesses to concede that Bremer's finger and palm prints were not found on the gun and that there was no ballistics proof that Bremer had actually fired it.

FBI firearms expert Robert Frazier could not say for certain whether all of the bullets found at the scene of the crime and in the victims' bodies, would match with Bremer's gun. In fact, under questioning, Frazier stated that he could not prove that the bullets came from that particular weapon!

The reasons why other "professional" agents had washed the face and hands of A. H. Bremer before they administered the paraffin test to determine whether or not there was any presence of gunpowder (an important test for any court case), might have something to do with Frazier's remarkable testimony, and what it may imply.

The aforementioned facts may also help to explain why some of the closest witnesses to the shooting were unable to positively identify Bremer as the assailant, at the trial. In fact, Mr. Laurens Pierce, the first witness, said that he couldn't swear that he saw Bremer with the gun.

By now, the knowledgeable reader may have already detected a familiar pattern. There are numerous similarities between Bremer, and all the other alleged assassins, too numerous to list here, but none has anything to do with personality traits or habits. Rather, in each assassination, more bullets were fired than were located in the victims and at the scene of the crime, than the alleged single weapons could have discharged. Bullets recovered from the victims would not match the alleged weapons. Witnesses gave conflicting accounts as to the number of shots fired. And all the other suspects were released immediately, no record of their arrest being kept

Suspect Escapes — Police Collusion?

Initial wire service reports stated flatly that more than one suspect was involved in the assassination attempt, and that Pennsylvania and Maryland

State Police had issued an All-Points Bulletin for a 1971 light blue Cadillac, driven by a white male described as about 6'2", 220 lbs., with silver-gray hair.

The bulletin was mysteriously canceled shortly after it was released.

The suspect was stopped and questioned by Maryland State Police after leaving the vicinity of the Laurel parking lot immediately following the Wallace shooting, but was not arrested!

According to Maryland State Police, the suspect in question was observed changing Georgia for Maryland plates on his car near Savage, Maryland, across the Patuxent from Laurel.

The blue Cadillac reported leaving the area of the rally, resulting in an All-Points Bulletin in two states, was found abandoned later on that afternoon along the Baltimore Beltway, but was said to have no connection with Bremer or the shooting!

Shortly after the Wallace shooting, a suspect was stopped near Columbia, Maryland, driving a dark green Cadillac. "Excellent piece of police work" is how a Mr. Edward Vinton described his "arrest", after being surrounded with four .357 police Magnums aimed at his head! Vinton's daughter describes her father as a "tight-lipped, Archie Bunker type who voted for Nixon in 1972".

On May 10, 1972, Arthur Bremer was observed at a Wallace rally in Cadillac, Michigan. The would-be assassin "sat with a neatly dressed man of about 40. Newsmen familiar with Cadillac said that they did not recognize the man"./2/

Someone who might have recognized Bremer's mysterious friend died on May 29, 1972, from an "overdose". The witness had been standing back at the Laurel Shopping Center at a vantage point allowing her to see clearly the blue Cadillac exiting with the second suspect at the wheel. It is believed that she got a good look at the driver. Her husband thinks that his wife was murdered, because of what she saw on May 15, 1972.

Evidence Planted — Forged?

On May 16, 1972, FBI agents searched Bremer's car and reported numerous items, a six or eleven page list./3/

The next day, Prince George's County (Md.) Police conducted a second search and found additional items, including a 9mm, 14-shot, semi-automatic Browning pistol! This second gun, and bullets taken from the Wallace shooting, should be examined more closely by law enforcement agencies.

Bremer's "diary", conveniently introduced as "evidence" at his trial, was a cruel hoax perpetrated upon the American people. Bremer, like Sirhan, never kept a diary in his life.

The "Oswald Diary", "Life" magazine, July 10, 1964, is another masterpiece of misspelled words. Oswald never wrote or even saw that diary, and the Warren Commission never did account for how it appeared.

It was Gerald Ford who leaked it to "Life", identical to Colson leaking the forged Hunt-Kennedy-Diem cables.

FBI Errors

According to the "New York Times", Bremer's apartment was burglarized before the FBI showed up. The FBI only found left wing material./4/ But newspaper reporters who examined Bremer's apartment before the FBI, saw right wing and left wing literature there.

The FBI arrived and left, allowing the curiosity seekers and some reporters who came after them to rummage through Bremer's apartment. They failed to seal off the apartment, and forgot to brush it for fingerprints. In fact, Mrs. Wasche, who runs the building, had charged \$10 a head and made a bundle!

The FBI has never offered an explanation as to why they permitted the apartment to be ransacked. But perhaps there is an answer to the above question, one which might not be very comforting to most people.

White House Involvement

Where was E. Howard Hunt on the afternoon of May 15, 1972? Hunt testified before the grand jury investigating Watergate, under oath, that shortly after the assassination attempt (within one hour) Charles Colson called him from the White House by telephone and ordered him to immediately "go to Bremer's apartment and see if there is left or radical reading material around"./5/

Hunt swore to the investigators that he countermanded Colson's order on the grounds that a break-in would be too risky.

But in answer to an identical question before an Executive Session of the Senate Watergate Committee on July 25, 1973, Hunt testified that he was called into Colson's office on the morning of May 16, 1972, one day after the shooting, and was ordered to fly to Milwaukee, break into Arthur Bremer's apartment, and look for evidence./6/

Hunt testified that Colson explained the purpose of the entry operation as follows:

"In the past when Mr. Kennedy was assassinated, when Jack Ruby was killed, and when Martin Luther King was killed, it was all immediately blazoned as a right wing plot of some sort. We would like to know what kind of kook this guy is. What has he got up there in the way of literature? Is he a neo-Nazi?"/7/

On the same page as the above, Hunt claims that he protested because of his belief that the apartment was staked out by the authorities. Hunt then testified that Colson strongly implied that a break-in could elude the stake out and retrieve important information./8/

Finally, Hunt concludes his testimony by stating that Colson canceled the plan altogether. But Colson has denied the entire story on more than one occasion./9/ Why the two completely different stories? Why the denials? Will Hunt be forced to change testimony again to protect the White House and Colson's link to the attempted assassination of George Wallace?

Another "Amazing Coincidence"?

On May 18, 1972, two unidentified men attempted to kidnap Mr. Eugene Burchfield, Wallace's Maryland campaign manager. Bremer, as you know, had already been arrested and the FBI and Justice Department had announced "no conspiracy".

Mr. Burchfield knows more about the assault upon his boss than "Life" was willing to print. He can't understand, along with Dr. Hamilton Hutchinson (Wallace's personal physician), the obsession with the alleged twisted mental state of "lone nut" Arthur Herman Bremer.

The FBI has repeatedly tried to convince Wallace that a plot was not behind the shooting, but to no avail. At one news conference, Wallace stated that he wasn't sure that Bremer had acted alone and added, "I have no evidence but I think my attempted assassination was part of a conspiracy." At other conferences, the Governor has hinted that Watergate might be responsible for his present condition!

At the courtroom where Bremer was sentenced by Judge Ralph Powers on August 4, 1972, the "lone nut" who shot George Wallace was given his chance to speak:

"I suppose I have a world of words to say." For a moment that seemed like an eternity, Bremer paused. Then Mr. Lipsitz told him; "Don't be afraid to speak up." Bremer then made the following cryptic statement to the judge..."I think what I have to say would run longer than the transcript of this trial. So I won't say anything at this time."

Bremer has since been denied the right to a retrial (August 24, 1972).

Witnesses Dead, Missing

On May 15, 1972, the Governor met his fate. Then, 14 days later, the leaves began to fall, and a number of people died suddenly.

Two months after Bremer's arrest, Dennis Salvatore Cossini was found dead in Toronto, Canada. He died from a massive overdose of heroin, but never used drugs in his life. Cossini may have been the "mystery man" seen with Arthur Bremer by a host of witnesses. He met with Bremer at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa, at the time of the Nixon visit, in the same building the Secret Service was staying at!

Cossini has been accused postmortem of being a CIA agent by Alan Stang, a television writer, producer, and consultant. Mae Brussell, whose articles have appeared in "The Realist", has also identified Cossini as an agent.

John J. McCleary. His phone number was found in Cossini's address book. According to police accounts, McCleary "drowned" in the Pacific Ocean at 12:00 midnight. He lived in Sacramento, California and worked at V&T International, an "export-import" company which Cossini telephoned often.

McCleary Sr., John's father, soon after "drowned" in Reno, Nevada. Both father and son died tragically during the fall of 1972.

Herbert Spenner headed the German Americans for the Re-election of President Nixon in 1972, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Spenner handled a lot of cash. Herbert Spenner died by gunshot, a suicide the police said.

I believe the murder of Congressman Mills, and his two aides, one a general, had to do with the Wallace shooting. He supposedly received \$25,000, which never went to his bank, but might have been used to wash the Maryland-Wallace payoff...and should be investigated further.

Earl S. Nunnery, once the manager of the Milwaukee station of the CEO Ferry (Chesapeake & Ohio), was transferred against his wishes, to a railroad yard in Flint, Mich. Nunnery overheard an interesting conversation between Bremer and an unidentified companion when they used his ferry in early April of 1972. Now, nobody seems to know his whereabouts.

Mike McHale was another "friend" of Arthur Bremer, and was a member of the SDS in Milwaukee. In 1972, McHale's address was 2001 West Michigan, in Milwaukee. In 1973, McHale lived at 924 N. 16th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He no longer resides at that address.

Michael Cullen was recently "deported" to Ireland. Cullen, a master at the arts of behavior modification and psychological programming, was one of Bremer's "mentors" in Milwaukee, in the same manner as Colston Westbrook, who was Donald DeFreeze's (SLA) CIA mentor./10/

Motive: Why Was George Wallace Shot?

The "Southern Strategy" of John Mitchell and Richard Nixon had not anticipated the populist vote appeal of Wallace, or that Nixon would lose heavily to Wallace in Tennessee, Michigan, Maryland and other states. In fact, from 1969 onward (after Chappaquiddick), Mitchell's preoccupation was that in 1972, Nixon had to combine his and Wallace's 1968 votes in order to win. The "Southern Strategy" was adopted to that end. This then, is why Nixon latched onto the anti-busing crusade and favored conservative, Southern candidates for Supreme Court nominations.

Although we have so far learned very little about direct operations against Wallace's chances for 1972, all the efforts made by Nixon, merely made him eligible for Wallace's votes if the Governor didn't run!

President Nixon himself cited the Wallace shooting as the most significant factor in his re-election! Wallace's not running was crucial to Nixon's success in 1972. The Governor represented a loss of 25-26 million votes by Nixon.

It should be noted that Nixon defeated McGovern by about 18 million votes. In an open, three-way race with Wallace (American Party), McGovern (or Muskie) and Nixon, the former President would have been destroyed. So much for the "mandate of 1972"!

It's interesting to take note of the reports that Governor Wallace is applying behind-the-scenes pressures to have some presidential tapes of May 15, 1972, released. Those tapes of an emergency meeting, between Nixon and Colson, held minutes after the shooting and immediately preceding Colson's dispatching of Hunt to Bremer's apartment, are unfortunately unavailable for inspection. They are being withheld by Gerald Ford and the Secret Service to this day. The excuse being that they have nothing to do with the Watergate break-in! Part of the deal between Nixon and Ford? Time will tell, time will tell.

Need for a Congressional Investigation

The shooting of George Wallace was as vital to the re-election of Nixon as was the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the escalation of the Indochina war.

The true facts concerning the murder of a beloved president and the near-killing of a popular presidential candidate are a vital necessity if citizens are to regain control of their country, their lives.

A good chance to return to our democracy is a Congressional investigation, complete with modern computers, hundreds of professional investigators, with full subpoena powers plus the power to hold witnesses who commit perjury in contempt.

Also, the leading assassination researchers and experts should be called upon to advise and aid the Congress in such an inquiry.

Conspiracy theories will remain "theories" as long as there are no courts, no lawyers, no Congress, with the guts to expose the evidence. When the evidence is pursued, the "theory" will become a textbook case of criminal conspiracy.

If our representatives in Washington, D.C. cannot calmly examine those steps which led from a political murder in 1963, to the appointment of a President and a Vice President 12 years after, then our country is lost forever.

If the Congress cannot act in the interests of the American people, then we may well be headed for the darkest period of our history.

Postscript

On the night before his testimony to the Grand Jury, June 11, 1973, E. Howard Hunt was badly hurt, assaulted in his cell.

Hunt's first attorney, William O. Bittman, an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate coverup, asked for permission to review the record of the Wallace story and amend it later, if necessary, because of the possibility of mistakes after the attack.

This summer, the Watergate Grand Jury officially closed down its operations for good. The Special Prosecutor informed each juror, that, until the day of his death, he mustn't disclose the facts he discovered to any living person. Thus the full story of the Watergate conspiracy may never be learned in our lifetime.

Can this be America's fate, doomed to misfortune by a conspiracy of silence?

References

1. Excerpted from the secret minutes of the Hearings before the House Judiciary Committee on H.R. 803, 1974.
2. "New York Times", May 29, 1972.
3. Bremer's car was discovered at about 5:15 p.m., May 15, 1972.
4. Black Panther newspaper.
5. "Washington Post", June 21, 1973, "Looking for Evidence".
6. Page 129, Testimony of E. Howard Hunt, Ex. Sess., July 25, 1973.
7. Ibid., page 130.
8. Ibid., page 131.
9. Bernstein, Carl and Bob Woodward, "All the President's Men", New York: Simon and Schuster, 1974, pp. 328-330.
10. See Mae Brussell's articles in "The Realist", plus the work of the Citizen's Research and Investigation Committee, Box 3342, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212. □